

Indianapolis City Market (Market House)  
222 East Market Street, two blocks  
east of Monument Circle  
Indianapolis  
Marion County  
Indiana

HABS No. IND-59

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PHOTOGRAPHS  
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey  
Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation  
National Park Service  
Department of the Interior  
Washington, D. C. 20240

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HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

HABS No. IND-59

INDIANAPOLIS CITY MARKET  
(MARKET HOUSE)

Location: 222 East Market Street, two blocks east of Monument Circle, Indianapolis, Marion County, Indiana.

Present Owner: City of Indianapolis.

Present Use: Retail establishment.

Statement of Significance: The City Market is an excellent example of a specialized commercial building in an eclectic Italianate style. Designed by Indianapolis architect D. A. Bohlen in 1886, this was the second of two buildings erected on the site platted as an open air market in the original 1821 plan of the city. The interior of the central pavilion is a fine space defined by a series of light metal trusses.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. Date of erection: 1886.
2. Architect: D. A. Bohlen, the architect, was born in Hanover, Germany, studied architecture at Holzminden, and traveled and worked in Europe before moving to the United States in 1852. He worked for a short time in the office of Francis Castigan, then established his own practice in Indianapolis. Bohlen was the architect for the Crown Hill Cemetery, and Roberts Park Church, all in Indianapolis.
3. Original and subsequent owners: The City of Indianapolis has owned the property since the town was platted in 1821. Alexander Ralston's Plat of the Town of Indianapolis" reserved the south half of square 43 for a market. Present-day plats of the City at the Assessor's Office, City-County Building, Indianapolis, give the site dimensions as 195 feet along Delaware and Alabama Streets and 420 feet along Market and Wabash Streets, indicating that this latter dimension was formerly 425 feet before a five foot wide strip along Delaware Street was vacated.
4. Builder, contractor, suppliers: John A. Buchanan.

5. Original plan and construction:

Tomlinson Hall, designed in 1884 and completed in June 1886, was erected at the west end of the block set aside for markets. In 1886 the Market House was erected 50 feet east of Tomlinson Hall. In 1893 the haymarket located east of the Market House was removed. In 1903 shed additions to the east and west of Market House were erected. The west addition linked Market House with Tomlinson Hall. In January 1958 Tomlinson Hall was gutted by fire and Market House was remodeled and re-opened in April 1959.

D. A. Bohlen's 1886 sketch of the Market House showed it separated from Tomlinson Hall to the west by a 50 foot wide "street" and reserved a sizable portion of the eastern side of the market lot for later expansion. The building itself had 100 foot frontage on Market Street and ran 195 feet back to Wabash Street.

Bohlen's design called for an iron frame building with brick walls and stone foundations. This building has a raised central "nave" 60 feet wide, spanned by light weight iron trusses supporting wooden purlins and roof deck, and side aisles 20 feet wide, spanned and roofed in the same way. The structural bays along the east and west sides of the building are 15 feet wide and each contains three arched openings within each bay. The center opening was glazed and the other two openings were covered by galvanized iron louvers. At both north and south ends of the building there were center entrances which appear to have had no doors and were closed by ironwork gates. The original clerestory windows had transoms which contained hammered glass louvers. The gable roof was to be either tin, slate, or tile, and the cornices and other decorative elements were to be galvanized iron. Floors were constructed of poured Portland cement and the drawings showed a layout of 196 stalls. The total cost of the building was estimated to be \$30,000.

On July 10, 1886, John A. Buchanan was awarded the contract to complete construction of the market building for \$29,225 before October or pay a \$10 per day penalty fee. Construction began immediately and on October 4, 1886 Buchanan was granted a thirty-day extension of the contract based upon the "unavoidable delay in furnishing the iron, and placing the same in position, as well as some other parts of the work." (Journals of the Common Council, Indianapolis, 1886, p. 854, 872).

Funds paid out in 1886 on "New Market House" are listed as follows. All paid "out of additional City Hall Fund."

INDIANAPOLIS CITY MARKET  
HABS No. IND-59 (Page 3)

To John A. Buchanan for construction:

Aug. 11, 1886	First Estimate	\$1710
Sept. 14, 1886	Second Estimate	4725
Oct. 3, 1886	Third Estimate	6390
Nov. 4, 1886	Fourth Estimate	8496
Dec. 14, 1886	Fifth and final	8497
		<hr/>
		\$29,818

To D. A. Bohlen, for services as architect

Sept. 14, 1886	First payment	390
Nov. 9, 1886	Second payment	284
Dec. 14, 1886	Third payment	121
		<hr/>
		\$795

To C. W. Meikel, for gas fixtures

Dec. 14, 1886	Final payment	173
		<hr/>
		\$30,786

When a city Department of Public Works was created in 1891, one of the first acts of its governing Board was to have all city property appraised. The Market House was appraised at \$29,000.

6. Alterations and additions: Heating was needed in the Market House and in 1887 the city gave authorization for the purchase of three large coal-burning stoves. (Journals of the Common Council, Indianapolis, 1887, p. 823). The following year the city authorized advertising for piping Tomlinson Hall and the Market House for natural gas heating. Tomlinson Hall had been heated by coal and the cost was thought to be excessive. (Journals, 1887, p. 26). Architect Bohlen was authorized in 1888 to prepare plans for a natural gas furnace to be used to burn offal at the market. (Journals, 1889, p. 420, 452).

In 1892 the Marketmaster in his annual report indicated that the rest of the block east of the Market House was used as a hay market. He recommended that the hay market be moved elsewhere and that the space be used for a "gardeners' market" and that suitable buildings be erected on this land. The recommendation was made in the hope of solving a problem of traffic congestion caused by the fact that on the three market days of the week, the east side of Delaware Street from Washington to Market and the south side of Market Street from Delaware to Alabama were used for "trafficking and trading." In addition, electric lighting was recommended because in summer "the heat from the gas jets is very depressing." Proper street drainage was needed too, because rainwater puddling at Market and Alabama Streets impeded traffic. (Message of Mayor Thomas L. Sullivan, January 1892, pp. 159, 160).

INDIANAPOLIS CITY MARKET  
HABS No. IND-59 (Page 4)

By 1893 the hay market had been moved elsewhere and the space vacated was being used by the gardeners, but a building for them was still lacking. (Message of Mayor Caleb S. Denny, January, 1894, p. 270). In 1899 it was noted that use of narrow space between the Market House and Tomlinson Hall merely as a place to park empty wagons was a poor use of this space. Another city market was opened on August 23, 1899 in old street-car barns on the south side of town in another effort to relieve congestion at the East Market, as Tomlinson Hall market and the Market House were often called. (Message of Mayor Thomas Taggart, January 1900, pp. 231, 232). The south market was not successful. It drew too little patronage; so it was abandoned August 31, 1906. (Message of Mayor Charles A. Bookwalter, December 1906, pp. 8, 23).

In the comptrollers report for 1900, expenditure for gas for the East Market is given as \$2949. (Message of Mayor Thomas Taggart, January 1901, p. 17). Part of this cost was for heating. For the following year, \$3427 was spent for gas and electricity. (Message of Mayor Charles A. Bookwalter, January 1902, p. 12). It would appear that some electric lighting was installed in 1901.

In his annual message of January 1900, the mayor made another recommendation "for the erection of a permanent structure at the East Market" and other improvements, and recommended that the cost be paid from a short term loan by issuing bonds. (Message of Mayor Thomas Taggart, January 1900, p. 9). The market masters recommended a structure east of the Market Building in 1901 and 1902. (Message of Mayor Thomas Taggart, January 1901, p. 228 and Message of Mayor Charles A. Bookwalter, January 1902, p. 226). The January 1903 report of the Board of Public Safety, under whose control the markets lay, made the same recommendation. Construction took place in 1903, for the December 1903 Report of the Board of Public Works reads: "During the past year our predecessors constructed the new vegetable market building at the East Market and the additional market building between Tomlinson Hall and the East Market at a cost of \$38,000." (Message of Mayor John W. Holtzman, December 1903, p. 41). In the Comptrollers Report, receipts from the Market House Bonds of 1903 are given at \$30,235. (Message of Mayor John W. Holtzman, December 1903, p. 14). The Report of the Board of Public Safety notes: "Since completion of the new addition to the East Market House we have been able to place all retailers, as well as patrons, under shelter at all times of the year..." (Message of Mayor John W. Holtzman, December 1903, p. 173).

INDIANAPOLIS CITY MARKET  
HABS No. IND-59 (Page 5)

The Midway Market, as the addition was called because of its location between Tomlinson Hall and the Market House, had a flat roof with one long central monitor running north and south, and nine smaller rectangular monitors west of the central monitor. The north and south addition walls were brick bearing wall construction with light weight steel trusses and steel columns supporting the roof.

Heating the market remained a problem. The Midway Market had no heat and there were two stoves in the Market House and four in the East Building. (Message of Mayor John W. Holtzman, December 1904, p. 313). In 1907, new toilet rooms were built at the north end of the Midway Market - formerly the only public toilets in the whole market had been in Tomlinson Hall, and they were out of order most of the time - and all toilet stands and platforms were raised 10 inches above the floor for ease of flushing. (Message of Mayor Charles A. Bookwalter, December 1907, p. 247). A new gas lighting system was installed in 1908, a complete drainage system to allow proper flushing of the buildings, and ramps were built to replace the steps at entrances connecting the Market House with its additions. (Message of Mayor Charles A. Bookwalter, December 1908, p. 283).

By 1919, considerable dissatisfaction with the market buildings had taken the form of plans to remodel the buildings (Indianapolis Star, May 29, 1919, p. 1, col. 6), then to remove them and construct a new market building in their place, connecting to Tomlinson Hall on the west. (Indianapolis Star, June 7, 1919, p. 1, col. 3). Another plan, in 1922, proposed removing both Tomlinson Hall and the Market buildings and replacing them with a new auditorium seating 10,000 people and a two-story market, all on the same, original site. (Indianapolis News, November 9, 1922, p. 1, col. 3). The plans for new construction did not materialize, but necessary repairs were authorized in 1923. (Indianapolis Star, April 25, 1923, p. 8, col. 3).

In January 1958, Tomlinson Hall was so severely damaged by fire that the building had to be razed. (Indianapolis Times, February 3, 1958, p. 1, col. 8). The Midway Market was remodeled and was opened for use in April 1959. (Indianapolis News, April 21, 1959, p. 27, col. 2). The west wall of the Midway Market would appear to date from this time. At the southeast corner of the building a portion of the brick wall of Tomlinson's Hall remains with its limestone quoins quite prominent. The nearby plaque now set in the rebuilt west wall of the Midway Market must have been installed there when this wall was built in 1958 or 1959 and must have been salvaged from Tomlinson Hall.

B. Sources of Information:

1. Primary and unpublished sources:

- a. Original drawings: Architectural drawings of the Market House of 1886. Four sheets on opaque paper, poche in color. At office of Bohlen, Meyer, Gibson and Associates, Ind., Architects, 3000 Meadows Parkway, Indianapolis, Indiana.
- b. Measured drawings: The Historic American Engineering Record conducted a survey of the State of Indiana to record the historic technological and industrial development which took place there. This survey included documentation of the Indianapolis City Market. Dr. Aldo Giorgini (Purdue University) was the Supervisory Engineer. Donald E. Sackheim (Harvard University) was the Team Historian, and Michael R. Boles (Ball State University) was the Team Architect. They were assisted by student architects David H. Arbogast (Iowa State University), John T. Reddick (Ohio State University), and James T. Robinson (Louisiana State University). The team prepared 6 sheets of drawings of the Market which include site and location plan elevations, and extensive studies of the building's truss system. Copies of the drawings are available from the Historic American Engineering Record, National Park Service, Department of the Interior, Washington, D.C. 20240.

2. Secondary and published sources:

City of Indianapolis, Indiana. Journals of the Common Council, Board of Aldermen, and Joint Conventions of Said Bodies for the Year 1886. Indianapolis, 1887.

"Tomlinson Hall Opening," Indianapolis News, June 2, 1886, p. 1.

City of Indianapolis, Indiana. Journals of the Common Council, Board of Aldermen, and Joint Conventions of Said Bodies from January 7, and including December 22, 1884. Indianapolis, 1885.

First Annual Message of Honorable Thomas L. Sullivan, Mayor of Indianapolis, with Annual Reports of Heads of Department of the City Government to January 1892. Indianapolis, 1892.

Indianapolis Illustrated. H. R. Page & Co. Indianapolis, 1889.

City of Indianapolis, Indiana. Journals of the Common Council, Board of Aldermen, and Joint Conventions of Said Bodies for the Year 1887. Indianapolis, 1888.

City of Indianapolis, Indiana. Journals of the Common Council, Board of Aldermen, and Joint Conventions of Said Bodies for the Year 1888. Indianapolis, 1889.

First Annual Message of Honorable Caleb S. Denny, Mayor of Indianapolis with Annual Reports of Heads of Departments of the City Government to January 1, 1894. Indianapolis, 1894.

Fifth Annual Message of Honorable Thomas Taggart, Mayor of Indianapolis with Annual Reports of Heads of Departments of the City Government to January 1, 1900. Indianapolis, 1900.

First Annual Message of Honorable Charles A. Bookwalter, Mayor of Indianapolis with Annual Reports of Heads of Departments of the City Government for the Year Ending December 31, 1906. Indianapolis, 1907.

Sixth Annual Message of Honorable Thomas Taggart, Mayor of Indianapolis with Annual Reports of Heads of Departments of the City Government to January 1, 1901. Indianapolis, 1901.

Seventh Annual Message of Honorable Charles A. Bookwalter, Mayor of Indianapolis with Annual Reports of Heads of Departments of the City Government to January 1, 1902. Indianapolis, 1902.

Second Annual Message of Honorable Charles A. Bookwalter, Mayor of Indianapolis with Annual Reports of Heads of Departments of the City Government to January 2, 1903. Indianapolis, 1903.

First Annual Message of Honorable John W. Holtzman, Mayor of Indianapolis with Annual Reports of Heads of Departments of the City Government for the Year Ending December 31, 1903. Indianapolis, 1904.



Second Annual Message of Honorable John W. Holtzman, Mayor of Indianapolis with Annual Reports of Heads of Departments of the City Government for the Year Ending December 31, 1904. Indianapolis, 1905.

Second Annual Message of Honorable Charles A. Bookwalter, Mayor of Indianapolis with Annual Reports of Heads of Departments of the City Government for the Year Ending December 31, 1907. Indianapolis, 1908.

Third Annual Message of Honorable Charles A. Bookwalter, Mayor of Indianapolis with Annual Reports of Heads of Departments of the City Government for the Year Ending December 31, 1908. Indianapolis, 1909.

Indianapolis Star, May 29, 1919, p. 1, col. 6.

Indianapolis Star, June 7, 1919, p. 1, col. 3.

Indianapolis News, November 9, 1922, p. 1, col. 3.

Indianapolis Star, April 25, 1923, p. 8, col. 3.

Indianapolis Times, February 3, 1958, p. 1, col. 8.

Indianapolis News, April 21, 1959, p. 27, col. 2.

Indianapolis News, November 17, 1906, p. 14, col. 8.

3. Likely sources not yet investigated: None known.

Prepared by Wesley I. Shank  
Architectural Historian  
National Park Service  
August 1971

## PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

### A. General Statement:

1. Architectural merit and interest: The City Market is an excellent example of specialized commercial building in an

eclectic Italianate style. The central pavilion, built in 1886, is the finest element of the composition. It is located in the Central Business District, two blocks east of the center of the city (Monument Circle). The structure occupies the site that was platted as an open air market in the original plan of the city (1821). The interior space of the central pavilion is defined by a series of light metal trusses. The market building has been largely renovated in recent years and has become an important focal point within the Central Business District.

2. Condition of fabric: Good to excellent.

B. Detailed Description of Exterior:

1. Over-all dimensions: Rectangular, 204' (three distinct units - one bay each) x 316'; one story.
2. Foundations: Rough-faced ashlar, three courses high (above sidewalk). Top course has beveled edge.
3. Wall construction, finish and color: Red brick laid up in common bond; limestone trim.
4. Structural system, framing: The Market House is spanned by a series of light metal trusses (12 trusses) with horizontal tie rods. The trusses are carried by slender free standing cast iron columns round in cross section.
5. Chimneys: None.
6. Openings:
  - a. Doorways and doors: A horizontal limestone band course about 10' above foundation is about 1' high and carries a pair of brick pilasters which define the entrance arch. The pilaster caps and keystone of the arch are of limestone. A limestone slab is set above the keystone and the word "Market" is spelled out in raised letters. A simple limestone pediment surmounts the limestone slab. A limestone acroterion is set at the apex of the pediment.

The doors at the main entrance and elsewhere are modern aluminum units. All door units are deeply set in brick recesses.
  - b. Windows and shutters: There are three tall, round arch openings on each side of the main entrance. Their sill

is a horizontal limestone band course 10' above the foundation. The center unit in each set has eight glazed panes with metal shutters on the inside. The flankers have adjustable metal louvers. All frames are painted green.

Above the openings is another limestone band and above it are twelve more round arched windows in the central gable. The window heights vary because they are defined by the raking cornice of the gable roof. These windows have wooden sashes with wire glass; the number of panes varies. The frames and most panes are painted green.

7. Roof:

- a. Shape, covering: The Central Market House has a gable roof, ridge running north to south, with built-up roofing. The Midway Market addition to the west has a low rectangular monitor roof, with built-up roofing which runs north and south. The east addition has a flat built-up roof.
- b. Cornice, eaves: Stone cornices, copper flashing, and fascias.
- c. Dormers, cupolas, towers: Twin brick towers flank the central pavilion. Towers are square with horizontal limestone banding and low-pitched hipped roofs with copper ridge and fascias.

C. Detailed Description of Interior:

1. Floor plans: Market House has an open interior broken up by supporting columns. Aisles between stalls have a north-south orientation. Restaurant (modern) at north-west corner. Indoor parking at east end of building.
2. Flooring: Concrete slab on grade.
3. Wall and ceiling finish:
  - a. Walls: Brick, painted white.
  - b. Ceiling: The wooden deck of the roof is exposed and painted a buff color in central pavilion. The additions have ceilings of 2 x 4s on edge, painted white.
4. Doorways and doors: Modern aluminum doors.

5. Mechanical equipment:

- a. Heating: Steam from city's central system and modern unit heaters.
- b. Lighting: Modern electric.
- c. Plumbing: Modern.

D. Site and Surroundings:

General setting: Urban. Sidewalks on perimeter with small paved parking area at west end of site. Facade is the south elevation.

Prepared by David Hermansen  
Project Supervisor  
National Park Service  
August 1971

PART III. PROJECT INFORMATION

These records were prepared as part of a cooperatively financed project in 1970 between the Historic Landmarks Foundation of Indiana and the Historic American Buildings Survey.

The project was under the general direction of James C. Massey, Chief of the Historic American Buildings Survey. Measured drawings were prepared by student architects under the direction of Professor David R. Hermansen of Ball State University, Muncie Indiana. Professor Wesley I. Shank of Iowa State University prepared the historical data, and Jack E. Boucher, HABS staff photographer, provided the photographic record. H. Roll McLaughlin, FAIA, State Preservation Coordinator, President of the Historic Landmarks Foundation, and member of the HABS Advisory Board, served as consultant throughout the project. This report was edited for HABS in 1976 by Candace Reed.

*See also HAER No. IN-6 for additional documentation.*

ADDENDUM TO  
INDIANAPOLIS CITY MARKET  
(MARKET HOUSE)  
222 East Market Street  
Indianapolis  
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